BOROUGH OF DUNHEVED OTHERWISE LAUNCESTON ARY

ANNUAL REPORT

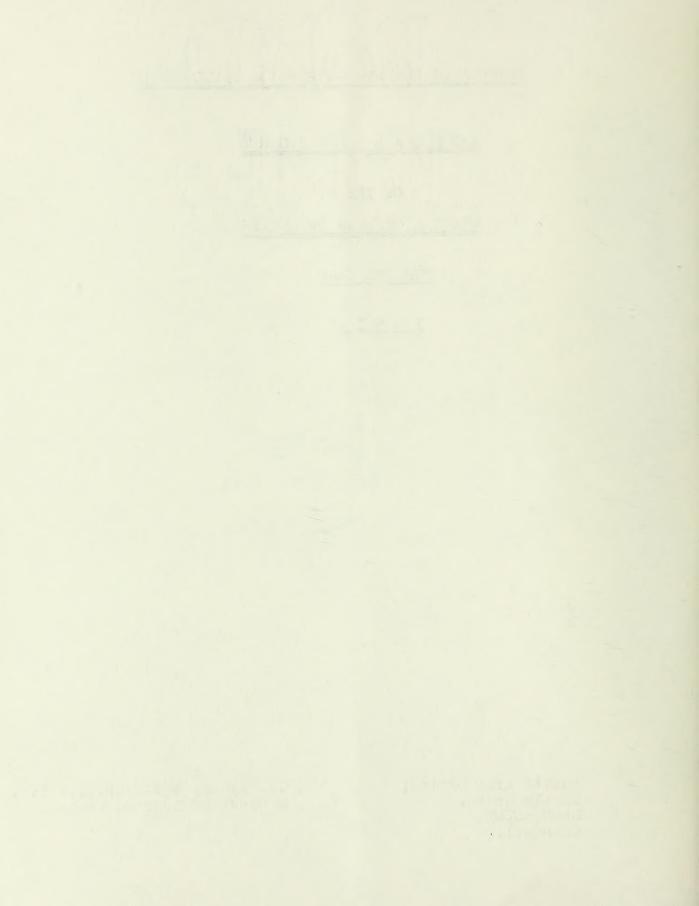
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1951.





To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Dunheved otherwise Launceston.

Mr Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the health and sanitary Circumstances of the Borough for the year 1951.

The health of the people in the Borough as far as can be judged by vital statistics has remained satisfactory. It is important that too much weight should not be attached to small variations in these rates from one year to another, particularly where relatively small populations are involved - attention should rather be paid to the trend of these rates over a period of years.

One always finds some difficulty when writing these Annual Reports in trying to project oneself into the past while working in the present, and planning for the future. As I took up my appointment in April 1952 I find these mental acrobatics particularly confusing on the present occasion and this 1951 report must, therefore, of necessity be mainly statistical.

I wish to thank Mr Till for the assistance he has given me in the preparation of Sections C, D and E of this report.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

W.H.P. Munto

Medical Officer of Health

Health Area Office, Castle Green, Launceston.

September, 1952

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SECTION A

Social conditions of Area and Statistics

Summary of Vital Statistics	1951	1950
Area in Acres Population Number of separate dwellings occup	2182 4516	2182 4624
in 1951 Reteable value in 1951 Product of 1d rate	1520 £42,274 £171.1.9.81d	14 73 £41,600 £169.2.0.
Live Birtns	Male Female	TOTAL
Legitimate Illegitimate	14(32) 17(27) 3(1) 2(2)	31(59) 5(3)
Birth rate per 1000 of population Birth rate for England & Wales	7.97 (13.40) 15.50 (15.80)	
Stillbirths	Male Female	TOTAL
Legitimate - Illegitimate -	(-) -(1) (-)	-(1) -(-)
Deaths of infants under lyear	Male Female	TOTAL
Legitimate 1 Illegitimate -	(-) -(-)	1(-)-(-)
Infant mortality rate Infant mortality rate for England & Wales	27.77 (-) 29.60 (29.80)	
	Male Female	TOTAL
33	(28) 37(40	70 (68)
	5.50 (14.70) 2.50 (11.60)	

(Figures in brackets are for the year 1950)

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MORTALITY TABLE

Classified in accordance with 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classifications of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948

	Cause of Death	Male	Female	TOTAL
12345678901234567890123456	Tuberculosis, respiratory Tuberculosis, other Syphilitic discase Diphtheria Mhooping Gough Menigococal infections Acute Foliomyelitis Measles Other infective and parasite disease Malignant neoplasm, stomach Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus Malignant neoplasm, uterus Uther malignant and lymphatic neoplasms Leukaemia, aleukaemia Diabetes Vascular lesions of nervous system Coronary disease, angina Hypertension with heart disease Other heart disease Other circulatory disease Influenza Aneumonia Bronchitis Other diseases of respiratory system Ulcer of stomach and duodenum Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea Nephritis and nephrosis Hyperplasia of prostate Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion Congenital malformations other defined and ill-defined diseases motor vehicle accidents All other accidents Suicide Homicide and operations of war.	-(-) -(-) -(-) -(-) -(-) -(-) -(-) -(-)	-(1) -(-) -(-) -(-) -(-) -(-) -(-) -(-)	(1) (-) (-) (-) (-) (-) (-)
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(Figures in brackets are for the year 1950)

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SECTION B

LABORATORY FACILITIES

As outlined in previous reports, the free use of the Public Health Laboratories are always available either at Exeter or Truro. In the Main, most of the specimens from this district are dealt with at Exeter, and I should like to take the opportunity here of thanking Dr B. Moore, who is in charge of this laboratory, for the excellence of his work and the ready help he always gives.

CLINIC FIGURITIES.

Infant Velfare Clinic

A fortnightly Infant Welfare Clinic is held at the Castle Green, Launceston and continues to provide a much valued service. Number of attendances during the year 1951 was 532 compared with 500 in 1950.

It is mainly in the Preventive aspect of medicine that we concentrate on here at the Clinic. This involves a good deal of personally conducted Health education to the mother on how to handle and bring up her infant. There is no immediate yard stick for measuring the value of this work or its results, but from the regularity of attendance of the methers with their babies, it is obvious that they appreciate an opportunity to discuss the particular and general aspect of good health. It shouldbe realised that when a mother calls in a doctor to see her sick child, she is in no condition at that time to be informed on how the trouble could have been avoided. The work at the Clinics supplements the work of the District Murses which is the mainstay of this scheme for Preventive Medicine. In their daily work they visit all homes where there are babies and young children and their timely advice and help does much to prevent serious illness developing.

Bye Clinic

An Bye Specialist from Plymouth holds an Bye Clinic for school children and children under school age at the Health Area Office. This Clinic is arranged as and when a suitable number of children becomes available and the fact that this Clinic is held regularly is a considerable saving in time and expense, otherwise these children would have to be transported to Plymouth.

Dental Clinic

During the year there was no full-time School Dentist in the area and there can be little doubt that this difficulty in obtaining the services of a full-time school dentist is due to the inequality of remaneration between general dental practice and the Local Authority service. The full results of such a lack cannot be assessed for a number of years and undoubtedly it will be again some years before a care can be effected even if the services of a dentist are to be obtained in the near future.

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Ambulance Service

The Ambulance Pervice was heavily engaged during the year. The main Hospital centres are situated up to 25/30 miles from the Borough which necessitates a large amount of travelling.

To give the Council some indication of the work and mileage involved, the Launceston Ambulances during 1951 conveyed 958 patients a distance of 35,200 miles.

It is not possible to separate out precisely the individual journeys to nospital from the Borough, but over the whole Area, which includes Bude, Stratton, Launceston and Camelford, the number of patients conveyed laring the year was 1491, a distance of 65,321 miles, or an average of 434 miles per patient. From these figures the Council will realise the great disadvantage we experience owing to our remoteness from hospital and treatment centres, and why it is recommended that the local hospital should be developed as much as possible to give the public more facilities.

Hospital Car Corvice.

Much of what has been said about the Ambalance Pervice applies to the Hospital Car Jervice. The Utilecon Ambulance which is situated in Launceston for conveying the sitting type of case has been a most valuable asset in the district. In addition to the use of this vehicle, we also use private cars to convey cases to hospital where this is appropriate.

The Baunceston Utilecon Ambulance during the year 1951 conveyed 2,470 patients a distance of 66,166 miles, to hospital. Here again private cars and Utilecons have to be brought in from other stations to cope with the work of the whole district.

In order that the Council may have some idea of the work done for the sitting type of case, the number of patients conveyed to nospital for the whole area was 5,002, a distance of 150,419 miles, or an average of 30 miles per patient. Here again, if more local facilities were provided, a great saving in transport could be effected.

RIGIONAL HOURITAL BOARD.

Internity Home is to be provided for the ase of potients in this oreo of Old Tree mouse, Trebursye, near Lunceston. It seems likely that this Home will be ready for use early in 1952.



SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances

Drains of existing buildings were tested as required. All new drains were tested by water or smoke.

Reports on the Sawage Works effluent have remained generally poor but the position has not worsened owing to the continued use of chamicals. Further discussion concerning the proposed new Sawage Disposal Scheme have taken place with Ministry experts, resulting in the employment of a Consulting Engineer to report upon the existing works and to make proposals for a new scheme.

Vater

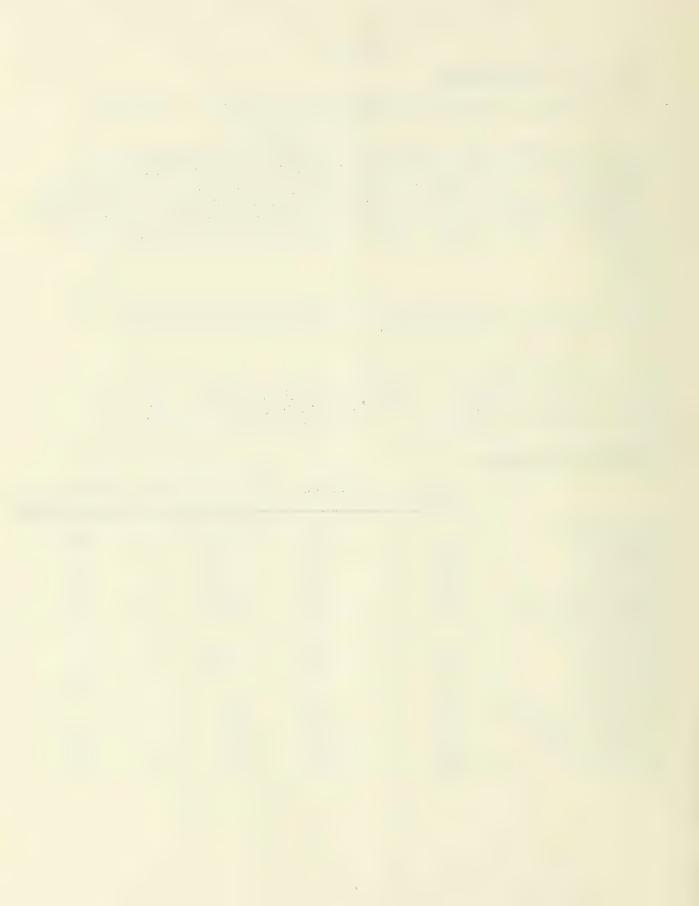
The Chlorination Flant is working effectively and a residual of 0.3 cls.per mill. is being maintained.

Seven samples were taken:

Four of the Town's main supply (all Class 1.)
Two of shallow wells (both unsatisfactory)
One of the swimming bath (good)

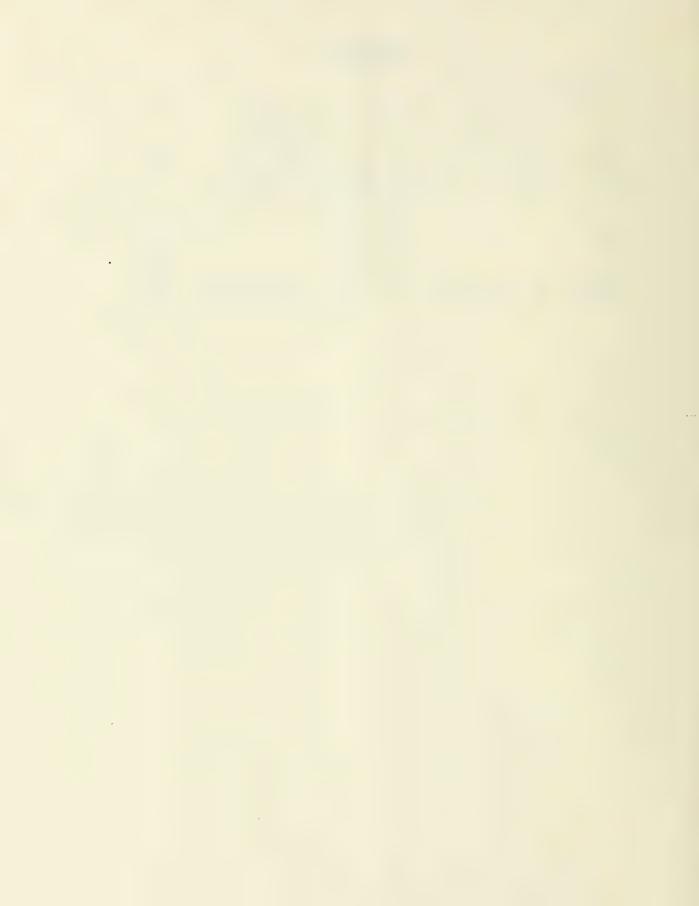
Routine Inspections

	No.in Area	Visits.	Defects found.	Defects reme- died
Bakehouses Butchers Cafes Dairies Tagg Packing Stn. Factories Fishmongers	5 9 13 2 2 81	12 30 39 31 2 53	2 2 3 1 1 4	2 2 3 1 4
(a) Net (b) Fried Grocers Ice-Cream	2 3 20	8 15 52	- 2	2
(a) Manufacturers (b) Retailers Pork Butchers Poulterers Shops	1 16 2 2 160	24 16 7 2 20	1 -	1



SECTION D

Housing	
Post-war housing - completed during 1951	19
Under construction at the end of the year	13
Total number of post-war houses completed since 1945	
Permonent	59
Temporary	39
Number of applicants on Housing Waiting List	142



SECTION E

Inspection and supervision of Food

Milk Supplies and Control

There are two registered Dairies in the Borough and five registered Distributors of milk.

> Pasteurised Accredited 1 Ungraded

24 milk samples were taken for bacteriological analysis, viz.

	Pastoupised	Accredited	Ungraded
No.of samples	2	6 2 failed	16 2 failed

Ice Cranm

There is one producer in the Borough, and sixteen retailers. 26 ice cream samples were taken for bacteriological analysis.

Of these 18 were Grade 1 (Satisfactory)

5 were Grade 2 (fair)

5 were Grade 3 (unsatisfactory)

2 were Grade 4 (very bad)

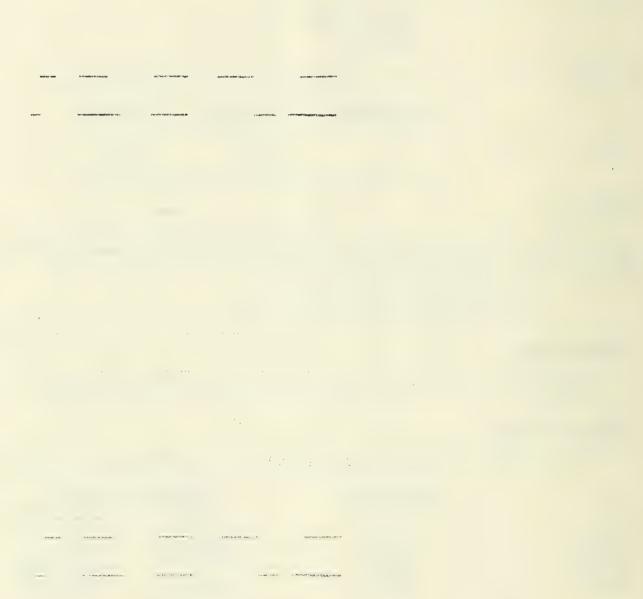
Unsound Food

'52 visits were made in order to condemn canned and other foodstuffs.

Ment Inspection

The following animals were killed at the Launceston Abbatoir.

	No.killed	Number Condemned T.B. 11 Caus			
Cattle	2081	61(2.93%)	141(7%)		
Calves	3268	14(0.43%)	48(1.4%)		
Sheep	5552	-	215(3.8%)		
Pigs	1263	11(0.8%)	32(2.5%)		



Causes of condemnation of entire carcases

Discase Generalised Tuberculosis Cedema Septiciaemia Septic Metritis Pyaemia Uraemia Immaturity Toute Swine Erysipelas Acute Bacterial Necrosis Acute Enteritis Icterus Moribund Black Cuarter Multiple Injuries		Cattle 61 58 13 1 4 - 1 1 1	2 14 2 7 23 - 1	Sheap	Pigs 11 11 2 - 5 - 2
	TOTAL	141	48	215	32

Miso 40,829 lbs of offel and part carcases were condemned.

16 cases of Cysticercus Bovis were found.

Work is to start on the abattoir improvements in February of 1952.

Rats and Mice Destruction

All complaints were investigated by test-baiting and inspection of the premises concerned and its immediate surroundings. Inere test-baiting revealed the presence of rats, pre-baiting and poisoning was carried out. After a lapse of a week or so, post-baiting was carried out to assess the success of the treatment. Mice were dealt with by direct poisoning.

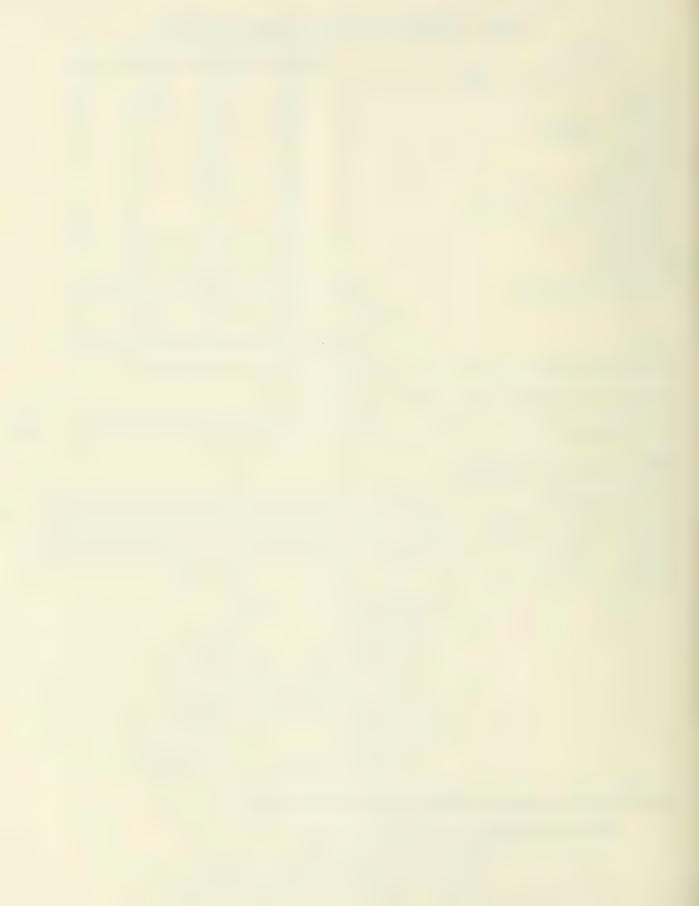
Premises treated 57
No. of visits 228
Poisons used
Arsenic 5 ozs
Red Squill 20 ozs
Zinc Phosphide 7 ozs.

Council premises treated 40
No. of visits 160
Poisons used
Arsenic 11 ozs
Zinc Phosphide 10 ozs.

Nuisances and Defects remedied during the year

Statutory Notices served

Dangerous buildings 2
Vater Act 1945
Housing Act 1956, Closing Orders 2



Informal Notices served

Keeping of animals	1
Defective Sanitary Accommodation	2
Obstructed drains	8
Defective drains	4
Overflowing cess-pool Food & Drugs Let 1938,	1
Sec. 13	1
General Defects	14

Total number of complaints recoived 47

Total number of visits made 1,659

Refuse and Unlyage Collection

This has proceeded satisfactorily. 53 tons 10 cwt.of Waste Paper was collected and despatched to the mills for pulping.

No nuisance of the Slate Cuarry.

SECTION F

Prevalence and Control of Infectious and other Diseases.

Notification of the following cases of infectious disease was received during the year.

AUTHORITY	Thoughng Cough	Messles	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Srysipelas	Diphtheria	Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Poliomyelitis(non-paralytic)	Food Poisoning	Dysentery	Rheumatism (children)	Pyrexia	TOTAL
Inunceston Borough Buda/Stratton Urban District Stratton Rural District Launceston Rural District Camelford Rural District	17 3 14 15 2	107 123 68 42 27	3136	1 7 11 3 5	2 - 4	- 1 1	1 1 -	- 1 -	4	- - 11	- - 1	1	127 137 101 66 55
TOTAL	51	367	13	27	6	2	2	1_	4	11	1_	1	486
30 T = 015713 T = F = 0													

POLIOMYELITIS

No case of poliomyelitis was notified during the year

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION & VACCINATION

During the year 1951 the number of Diphtheria Immunisations and Vaccinations in the whole area wereL

Authority	Immunisation	Boosters	<u>Vaccinations</u>
Launceston Borough Bude/Stratton Urban District Stratton Rural District Launceston Rural District Camelford Rural District	77	59	37(10
	67	149	71(28)
	75	62	47(13)
	78	113	44(5)
	96	198	57(9)

(figures in brackets represent re-Vaccination)

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TUB PRCULOSIS

		Males	Females	
	Pul.	Non. Ful	2u1.	Non. Pul
Cases on Register at 31.12.10	12	2	8	5
No. of cases notified during	-	1	1	-
No. of cases restores in the year	er-	-	_	4/2
Inward transfers			429	1986
Cases removed	3	- I	3	sen.
Cases on register at 51.12.51	9	3	6	5

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172, of the Public Health Act, 1936 which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

The preventive aspect of this disease is now being seriously tackled. All contacts of cases of Tuberculesis are tested by means of special skin tests, and if suitable, will be protected against Tuberculesis by the use of B.C.G. Vaccine. This Vaccine is a modified form of the Tuberculesis germ which is harmless in itself, but when injected is capable of enabling any individual to resist the disease.

DIPHTHERIA

No cases were notified during the year.